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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

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I. Introduction

1. At its substantive session of 2000, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2000/30 of 28 July 2000 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

2. In paragraph 17 of its resolution 55/139 of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly.

3. Information submitted by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations on their activities in relation to Non-Self-Governing Territories is set out below.

II. Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

4. According to the information provided by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, during the period under review, a number of specialized agencies and organizations have continued to extend assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Council and the Special Committee. A number of organizations have extended or formulated such programmes of assistance from within their own budgetary resources, in addition to their respective contributions as executing agencies of projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the primary provider of assistance.

5. A number of assistance projects have continued to be funded by UNDP, in close collaboration with other agencies and organizations.

A. Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat

6. While the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat has not directly undertaken any activities related to these resolutions, the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session adopted a document entitled "Further initiatives for social development" (resolution S-24/2 of 1 July 2000) which contains a specific paragraph calling for a commitment to "take further effective measures to remove the obstacles to the realization of the rights of peoples to self-determination, in particular people living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development and are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated" (ibid., annex, sect. III, para. 18).

7. In addition, while the Development Policy Analysis Division of the Department maintains a list of around 100 countries for the purpose of monitoring their trade and development for reflection in the annual *World Economic and Social Survey*, only those countries with a population of over 100,000 are included. Unfortunately, the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories generally have populations below 100,000 and/or do not compile statistical data, which the Division could use in its monitoring of trends and developments in the world economy. However, should relevant comprehensive data become available, it will be included in the Division's monitoring exercise.

8. Finally, the Division for Sustainable Development, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, works closely with the Alliance of Small Island States, which includes among its members several Non-Self-Governing Territories.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

9. Many of the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) are disadvantaged and, some of them are Non-Self-Governing Territories that face many development challenges and vulnerabilities. These range from heavy reliance on foreign aid and vulnerability to such natural disasters as cyclones and drought. The Non-Self-Governing Territories of

American Samoa, Guam, New Caledonia and Tokelau are in the Asia Pacific region. ESCAP therefore gives high priority to its disadvantaged members. Among the Territories, New Caledonia participated the most in ESCAP activities during 2000, including attending the fifty-sixth session of the Commission, the sixth session of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries and the twelfth session of the Committee on Statistics.

10. The Special Body deliberated on two items, namely transport and children's welfare issues, which are important to Pacific island countries and Non-Self-Governing Territories, including New Caledonia. The Special Body adopted a set of specific recommendations for action on those issues by national Governments, bilateral and international donors and regional and subregional organizations. The Committee on Statistics, among other things, had extensive discussions on the important role of information technology and its impact on statistical work. In discussing the demand by the international community for an extensive range of development indicators to measure social and economic progress, the Committee was concerned that the needs and resources of countries with less developed statistical systems, including those in the Pacific subregion, should be taken into account.

11. In 2000, New Caledonia also benefited from three advisory missions provided by the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre based in Vanuatu in the areas of economic development and strategic planning.

12. Even though East Timor is not a member of ESCAP, it is nevertheless a Non-Self-Governing Territory from the region and hence ESCAP, as the regional commission responsible, has taken a keen interest in its development efforts. East Timor is currently in the process of reconstruction and faces tremendous development challenges. For example, its development needs are vast but given the limited resources available to the United Nations, ESCAP fully recognizes that it is best to coordinate its technical assistance programmes to East Timor with relevant United Nations and other organizations currently providing assistance to East Timor.

13. Upon receipt of the request for technical assistance from the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET), ESCAP, in close consultation with UNTAET agreed to field a needs assessment mission to East Timor in April 2001 to examine and come up with recommendations on how ESCAP could meet the UNTAET request. UNTAET has specifically requested ESCAP assistance in four priority areas, namely, advice on the formulation of monetary, exchange rate and financial policies; diagnosis of existing on-shore hydrocarbon and minerals; information on preferential treatment of island developing countries and least developing countries; and the prospects for enhancement of national capacity in trade negotiations and international finance.

14. In assessing these specific needs of East Timor, the ESCAP mission planned to pay particular attention to the identification of local focal points for future activities, the assessment of available data and pertinent information related to the identified priority areas, the capabilities of existing institutions in addressing the priority areas, the formulation of proposals for activities by ESCAP in the future and suggestions for medium-term activities by ESCAP in collaboration with other organizations, such as the Asian Development Bank.

C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

15. Since 1994, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has participated in system-wide support for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[1]. As this category includes some Non-Self-Governing Territories, the latter benefit from UNCTAD work in favour of small island economies in general, particularly its research and analysis on the problems faced by these economies. Non-Self-Governing island Territories, although receiving substantial support from their metropolis, experience vulnerability issues that are generally not different from those incurred by independent island States in the context of globalization. UNCTAD stands ready to continue to assist Non-Self-Governing island Territories in: (a) assessing their economic vulnerability; (b) reducing their economic handicaps; (c) enhancing their economic specialization; and (d) increasing their participation in the multilateral trade system.

16. UNCTAD sponsors and implements structured training programmes for national officials, managers

and trainers in maritime trade and port management and helps countries establish their own training programmes for commercial staff and junior levels of management (the Training Human Resources in Maritime Management (TRAINMAR) programme). This service is available to all Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean.

17. The UNCTAD secretariat carries out relevant research and technical cooperation activities in the context of its work programme in general and in particular through its work on small island developing States. More specifically, in 2000 the Trinidad and Tobago network of TRAINMAR ran 43 courses on 22 topics for 552 persons from 20 countries, including the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and Montserrat. Over the past four years the Trinidad and Tobago network of TRAINMAR has trained just under 2,000 participants in a total of eight locations.

18. At the request of UNTAET, UNCTAD contributed to the formulation of a common country assessment in East Timor. Subject to mobilizing the necessary resources, UNCTAD is discussing with potential donors the requisite resources for the mission and for possible technical cooperation activities resulting therefrom.

D. United Nations Development Programme

19. Programmes of technical cooperation are maintained by UNDP with five British Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean, all of which are currently classified as net contributor countries. These are: Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands. The programmes vary in content but are all implemented in keeping with UNDP programming and operational rules, including through emphasis on the national execution modality. Decisions adopted by the Executive Board of UNDP/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and, in particular, those relating to resource allocation and cooperation with net contributor countries, apply in substance to all aspects of programming with these Territories. Relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and decisions of the Economic and Social Council also influence the nature of programme and other relations between UNDP and the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

20. Cooperation between UNDP and the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean has also been influenced by the decisions and outcomes of various United Nations and other international conferences, including the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, convened in Barbados in 1994; the International Conference on Population and Development, held in 1994; the World Summit for Social Development, convened in 1995; the Fourth World Conference on Women, convened in Beijing in 1995; and an international conference on small States, held in London in 2000.

21. The programme focus for UNDP, established by the successor programming arrangement and all subsequent decisions of the Executive Board, maintains an overarching emphasis on the promotion of sustainable human development. This objective is attained through thematic focuses in the areas of (a) poverty eradication and social development; (b) job creation and sustainable livelihoods; (c) governance, participation and the empowerment of women; and (d) protection of the environment and natural resource management.

Programming arrangements

22. The net contributor country classification of the Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories precludes most of them from benefiting from flows of grant assistance from UNDP. In addition, continuing resource constraints faced by UNDP have severely restricted its ability to respond more fully to the technical cooperation needs of the Caribbean Territories. Under resource allocation arrangements for the current programme cycle, a transitional target for resource assignment from the core was assigned to Anguilla, Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands. Such resource assignments were made on a reimbursable basis, in accordance with decision 95/23 of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA, and expired in 2000. The British Virgin Islands is a Territory that does not benefit from core resource assignment. Therefore, cooperation with that Territory is pursued with considerable emphasis on resource mobilization and cost sharing, involving government as well as third-part funding.

23. In addition to their allocations of core resource assignment, some of the Territories benefit from the Caribbean component of the UNDP regional

programme for Latin America and the Caribbean. In particular, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands currently benefit from the expanded, ongoing regional disaster response and management project for the Caribbean. Additional benefits are derived by the Turks and Caicos Islands under the merged support for policy and programme development and support for technical services funding frameworks. In addition, given its membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Montserrat will continue to benefit from assistance channelled to the Caribbean multi-island programme. Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands will also continue to receive such benefits, based on their associate status with OECS.

24. UNDP is encouraging the use of other global facilities for the benefit of the Territories, such as the technical cooperation among developing countries programme, the partners in development programme and the Global Environment Facility. Governments of the Territories covered by UNDP field offices in the Caribbean continue to benefit from the services provided by the UNDP Subregional Resource Facility, based in Trinidad and Tobago.

Other areas of assistance

25. UNDP has continued the implementation of areas of support assigned to it from the small islands developing States Programme of Action. In particular, the Small Island Developing States Information Network and the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme have become fully operational with benefits to be derived by all small islands developing States, including the dependent Territories. The two programmes, which were created to enhance the flow of sustainable development information among small States and to provide technical expertise in addressing gaps in technical assistance needs through exchanges among small island developing States and between small island developing States and other States, continue to further the process of integrating Non-Self-Governing Territories into the global arena.

26. UNDP resident representatives assigned to the Territories have established a system of United Nations focal points within those Governments. This initiative is intended to strengthen dialogue and promote contact between the Territories, UNDP and the rest of the United Nations system. An expected benefit will be increased awareness among officials and the general public in the Territories of the potential for collaboration with the United Nations system. Through such a mechanism, UNDP can play a greater role in providing policy advice and guidance to the authorities of the Territories within its area of competence.

27. UNDP has continued to engage in effective policy dialogue with the Governments of several Caribbean Territories, with a view to determining their most critical policy concerns and recommending ways for effectively utilizing assistance provided by the Organization. These functions have been carried out by UNDP resident representatives, who also frequently monitor developments of a social, economic and political nature in the Territories. The formulation of appropriate programmes of technical assistance is based on the processes of consultation and the ongoing review of conditions within each Territory that is undertaken by UNDP.

28. In addition to its role in above-mentioned aspects, UNDP maintains critical liaison and coordination with other agencies of the United Nations system. This function has proved beneficial in the determination of needs and the delivery of assistance to the Territories, particularly with respect to emergencies.

Focus of assistance

29. The assistance provided by UNDP to the Caribbean dependent Territories in the current programme cycle (1997-2000) has its principal focus support in the areas of (a) poverty eradication and social development; (b) governance and capacity-building; and (c) environmental management. With this in mind and, given the continuing resource constraints in the implementation of its programmes for net contributor countries, the current UNDP strategy involves the application of available funding in a catalytic manner, with the aim of attracting financing from the programme countries themselves, as well as other donors and the private sector.

Anguilla

30. In view of the significantly reduced flows of development assistance from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Anguilla, the financing of its cooperation programme during the current programme cycle will come mainly from government cost-sharing contributions. The

programme, as approved, will concentrate on human resource development and environmental management. UNDP will be expected to provide considerable support to the Government in the area of resource mobilization in order to maximize the scope, coverage and impact of external support.

Bermuda

31. The Government of Bermuda has opted to suspend its cooperation with UNDP, because of the net contributor country status that was conferred on it.

British Virgin Islands

32. With regard to the British Virgin Islands, the Territory has received no allocation from the target for resource assignment from the core for its programme, which will be fully funded from government cost-sharing resources. The programme of cooperation concentrates on social development and poverty eradication, with particular emphasis on women and children and some attention be paid to environment and natural resources management and the strengthening of national disaster-preparedness capacity. The programme came to an end in late 2000, and there is no current UNDP programming.

Cayman Islands

33. In the Cayman Islands, UNDP is continuing its discussions with the Government with a view to agreeing on a new focus for its support in the light of the country's status as a net contributor country. The country review for the Cayman Islands will be undertaken in 2001 and will determine the nature of the new UNDP programme of cooperation. However, based on the outcome of ongoing discussions with the Government, and in line with the priorities outlined in the national plan, entitled "Vision 2008", which has been adopted by the Government and Legislature of the Cayman Islands, it is envisaged that UNDP assistance will be framed within the context of supporting ongoing initiatives to strengthen the mechanism and institutions that seek to enhance civil society participation in decision-making and policy formulation. Support will also go towards strengthening the information technology base, particularly on the less developed islands and among community groups. Any programme of cooperation agreed on will require full government cost sharing.

Montserrat

34. Following the series of eruptions of the Montsoufriere volcano in Montserrat, UNDP assisted in the mobilization and deployment of immediate emergency relief and rescue supplies. Financial support for these efforts was provided through the UNDP special programme resources and target for resource assignment from the core emergency programme. Apart from assisting in financing relief efforts, some funding was applied to supporting housing construction in order to relieve the continuing pressure on emergency shelters in the country. In addition, these resources allowed for providing the Government with much-needed technical expertise in a variety of areas, in collaboration with the United Nations Volunteers. Several technical needs have been fulfilled to date, by making available the expertise of the United Nations Volunteers in the areas of physical planning, engineering, building management and architectural services. Support for vulnerability mapping and for strengthening national disaster management and preparedness plans are the principal focuses of a new project approved in 1999. The project attracts funding from the Government of Montserrat, the Government of the United Kingdom and UNDP.

Turks and Caicos Islands

35. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, UNDP continues to support the Government with technical cooperation in establishing the basis for promoting meaningful balanced development in the context of a multi-island administration and an externally oriented economy. In this connection, support has been concentrated on small enterprise development and employment creation, particularly the less developed islands, and technical support for capacity-building in the public sector using the United Nations Volunteers modality. The country review for the Turks and Caicos Islands will be undertaken in 2001 and will determine the nature of the new UNDP programme of cooperation. However, on the basis of ongoing discussions with the Government, governance and capacity-building, particularly in the areas of policy formulation and planning as well as technical support for the preparation of mid-term economic strategy, are most likely to be the areas of focus. Given the country's pending status as a net contributor country, any programme of cooperation agreed on will require full government cost sharing.

E. World Food Programme

East Timor

36. The violence that followed the 30 August 1999 popular consultation in East Timor caused a large number of East Timorese to flee their homes, exposing them to food insecurity. Most of the public and private infrastructure, notably in the western part of the country, was severely damaged or completely destroyed. Economic activity and agricultural production were critically disrupted. The World Food Programme (WFP) started its first emergency operation on 15 September 1999, as an immediate response to food aid needs, and assisted some 150,000 beneficiaries located in the worst affected areas. The current operation of emergency assistance to the victims of civil strife in East Timor is a sequel to the initial two-month immediate response emergency operation. WFP also launched a special operation to support and strengthen the logistic capacity of the humanitarian community in East Timor.

37. WFP has been assessing and monitoring the food security situation in East Timor on a regular basis. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WFP conducted crop and food supply assessment missions in December 1999 and April 2000. The second mission found satisfactory maize and rice harvests for the year 2000. However, despite the improving food supply situation, the disruption to the economy, especially markets, and the loss of productive assets and income-generating activities left large numbers of people vulnerable to food insecurity in 2000 and early 2001. In addition, the prolonged rainy season negatively affected food security by accelerating deterioration of the road network and by increasing post-harvest losses, particularly in the southern areas of the country.

38. WFP is providing food assistance to an estimated 300,000 beneficiaries. This operation has been programmed for the delivery and distribution of over 42,000 tons of food commodities. The initial objective of the WFP intervention in East Timor was to ensure a nutritionally adequate diet to those who had temporarily lost all means of self-support. Although this objective still remains valid, WFP is now moving into the reconstruction and recovery phase of its operation and utilizing food as a catalyst for rehabilitation activities through projects such as food-for-work and school feeding.

39. Since the first airdrop operations on 23 September 1999, WFP has established its food distribution network on the ground, deployed expert staff, set up six sub-offices and created an extensive logistics infrastructure. In addition, in the early stage of the crisis, WFP took the lead role in coordinating the logistics for humanitarian assistance in East Timor. WFP provided transport assistance to all humanitarian agencies by mounting air, sea and road support to move humanitarian workers, food and non-food items. As the situation stabilized, WFP continued to deploy helicopters to fly humanitarian workers and cargo to inaccessible areas and used its large fleet of trucks to transport food and other humanitarian agencies' materials throughout the Territory.

40. In the first months of operation, WFP undertook general food distributions to the entire population of East Timor. Subsequently, WFP moved towards more targeted distributions, taking into account people's degree of self-reliance and level of livelihood disruption. A carefully planned transition from general distribution to targeted feeding was introduced in order to avoid dependency and expedite the Territory's return to normality.

41. Currently, and through its vulnerable group feeding programme, WFP provides a balanced food basket to individuals traditionally classified as vulnerable (such as pregnant/lactating women, widows, female heads of household, disabled persons and street children), as well as to populations living in areas categorized as being geographically food insecure. To meet the needs of particularly vulnerable groups, supplementary feeding is being provided to hospital in-patients, pregnant women, nursing mothers and malnourished children.

42. Moving into the recovery phase, WFP has been implementing countrywide food-for-work activities, school feeding projects, seed protection schemes, agricultural support exchanges and other projects geared towards helping East Timor engage in reconstruction. In addition to these above programmes, WFP continues, of course, to support the repatriation operation from West Timor.

43. With its mandate of food and logistics coordination for the East Timor humanitarian operation, WFP works closely with United Nations specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations, UNTAET, peacekeeping forces and Timorese

representatives at the national and local levels. In particular, WFP has developed strong links with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its main implementing partners (World Vision, Catholic Relief Services, Caritas Internationalis and CARE).

44. WFP will continue to provide logistical support to other humanitarian organizations on a cost recovery basis. The helicopter operations are scheduled to continue until the end of the current lean/rainy season. As for its trucking capacity, WFP will work on rationalizing the deployment of its fleet in accordance with the re-emergence of the commercial sector and the diminished need to assist United Nations specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations.

45. Total WFP food distributions between September 1999 and January 2001 exceeded 36,000 tons. Projected arrivals and in-country stocks currently total over 9,500 tons.

Western Sahara

46. Tens of thousands of Western Saharans have taken refuge in Algeria since 1975, settling in temporary camps in a desert area near Tindouf. WFP has helped the Government of Algeria to meet the basic nutritional needs of the refugees since 1986. The United Nations-sponsored settlement plan envisages a referendum for the self-determination and repatriation of all eligible refugees and their families to Western Sahara. In the light of recent developments, however the referendum is unlikely to be implemented before 2002. Until then, the refugees will remain in Algeria. Because of the harsh geophysical environment in which the camps are located, the refugees will continue to rely on humanitarian assistance, pending the achievement of a durable solution.

47. The specific objective of WFP activities is to ensure the timely delivery of basic food commodities that will sustain the lives of the refugee camp population. Women are in charge of the overall administration of the camps and play a leading role in distribution of food commodities. Until 2000, WFP had provided basic food to some 80,000 people. When the number of refugees in the camps exceeded 80,000 people, additional basic food commodities were provided by bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations. However, difficulties in the coordination of food aid sources resulted in erratic and sometimes inadequate basic food supplies. WFP and its partners reassessed food aid arrangements in 2000 and WFP now takes responsibility for mobilizing food to meet the basic needs of the entire refugee camp population. A planning figure of 155,000 people is currently being used, based on registrations by the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and UNHCR. The annual food requirements of WFP are around 32,000 tons, valued at about US$ 14 million. When bilateral donors or non-governmental organizations provide basic food, WFP reduces its requirements accordingly.

48. WFP directs its activities from its country office at Algiers, with an international and national staff also monitoring activities from Tindouf. WFP does not operate within Western Sahara but only within the sovereign territory of Algeria. The Algerian Red Crescent receives WFP food consignments at the port of Oran in Algeria and delivers the food to the main storage point at Rabouni, near Tindouf. The Saharawi Red Crescent distributes WFP commodities within the refugee camps. WFP works in close cooperation with UNHCR, bilateral donors and international non-governmental organizations such as Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli, Solidaridade Internationale and Oxfam.

F. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

49. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) provides assistance to Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories in subregional projects carried out in the context of the 1996 Barbados Plan of Action for Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation in the Caribbean. Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands participate in a project to upgrade drug-related forensic laboratory services. The three-year project (1998-2001) has a total budget of US$ 485,500, assisting 20 Caribbean countries/Non-Self-Governing Territories with training and equipment. Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands, together with 19 Caribbean independent States, also benefit from a UNDCP project carried out with the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council. With a duration of 3.5 years (1998-2001) and a total budget of US$ 1,305,500 the project assists customs administrations in the

establishment of a regional clearance system for small vessels and light aircraft in order to improve the interdiction of illicit drug trafficking.

G. International Labour Organization

50. The involvement of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the Non-Self-Governing Territories is both of a normative and operational nature. Regarding the former, the work focuses on the application and promotion of its international labour conventions. Article 35 of the ILO Constitution is applicable to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, St. Helena, Tokelau and the United States Virgin Islands by France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as appropriate. Comments have been made by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations in relation to Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Montserrat, New Caledonia and St. Helena.

51. In the case of the Cayman Islands, East Timor, Pitcairn, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Western Sahara, no declaration has been made under article 35 of the ILO Constitution.

52. On the issue of ILO technical cooperation activities in some of the above-mentioned Territories covered by the ILO Caribbean Office and Multidisciplinary Advisory Team in Port of Spain, they benefit from the ILO technical advisory and information services and frequently participate in ILO-sponsored subregional meetings and seminars. Some of these meetings have in fact been held in the Territories. The ILO Caribbean Office maintains close contact with the labour departments and employers' and workers' organizations within the Territories covered by it, and in several instances it carries out activities in connection with the cooperation agreement it has concluded with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). For example, the relevant Territories are invited to attend and to send observers to meetings of CARICOM labour ministers.

53. Overall, the ILO Caribbean Office's technical activities are carried out within two frameworks: subregional technical cooperation projects and national activities. In the former case, in accordance with donor policies, no activities are carried out in the Territories, but delegates from the Territories have the opportunity to participate in most project activities. As far as national activities are concerned, ILO has been able to provide modest assistance through the use of its own funds, notably the case of Montserrat, where technical assistance was provided in 2000 in the areas of small enterprise development, training and labour market information. Furthermore, national tripartite or worker/labour administration seminars have been planned or are planned to be undertaken in some of the Territories.

54. In the case of East Timor, the first ILO activity in response to its needs, arising in the aftermath of its breakaway from Indonesia, started in October 1999 with an initial ILO assessment mission at the request of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat for proposals to be included in the United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal. This was followed by the setting up of the ILO presence in East Timor in November 1999 and a series of ILO missions by specialists and consultants in various fields of employment and labour-related matters — labour laws and administration; industrial relations; employment, small enterprise development, vocational training and occupational safety and health.

55. Major technical assistance provided by ILO to East Timor to date includes the following:

(a) Advice on organization, structure and staff required for an interim division of labour and social services; including assistance in setting up the first employment service centre of the transitional Government;

(b) Capacity-building of the labour administration through training labour officers in various labour-related matters, such as labour conciliation and dispute settlement, labour inspectors, industrial relations, employment services, international labour standards; small enterprise development and accident hazard and prevention;

(c) Initial steps towards the formulation of basic labour regulations for tripartite consultations, focusing on employment and labour administration, industrial relations, minimum wage fixing and termination of employment. Drafts are yet to be discussed fully on a tripartite basis before being finalized;

(d) Promotion of social dialogue among the tripartite constituents;

(e) Support to workers' groups. Training for workers' representatives on the formation of trade unions and responsibility as well as training on aspects of labour law, basic workers' rights, international labour standards, etc;

(f) Pilot testing of a start your business programme.

56. The following two projects, developed with ILO assistance at present, are at an advanced stage of negotiation:

(a) Promotion of East Timorese employability through the development of a vocational training and employment system, prepared and submitted to the Government of Portugal for approval;

(b) Strengthening and improving labour relations in East Timor, prepared and submitted to the United States Department of Labor for approval.

H. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

57. While the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) does not specifically encompass the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, its assistance in the areas of food security, and agricultural, forest and fisheries development remains relevant to the small island Territories, which form the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The work of FAO itself, as well as its contributions to work undertaken by the Commission on Sustainable Development on the sustainable development of small island developing States, is also relevant in this regard.

I. World Health Organization

Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Montserrat

58. In Montserrat, the disruption caused by the volcanic eruptions led to a significant loss of human capital and the health and education sectors have suffered from the departure of professionals, including those trained in health management.

59. The environmental health risks have changed. The Ministry of Health is concerned about the food safety practices of food establishments, given the increasing number of facilities in use that were not built for that purpose. Solid and liquid waste disposal are cause for concern.

60. The national health policies in Montserrat have basically remained the same, based on primary health care strategies, with increasing emphasis on the promotion of health. Funding for national health development is primarily from the British Government. Following a comprehensive review of the health services, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) was requested to manage a special health project in order to enable the Ministry of Health to offer services of optimal quality, and to develop a more appropriate delivery system supported by relevant policies.

Project of technical cooperation of the Pan American Health Organization

61. PAHO/WHO develops a two-year programme of work in response to the priority health needs as defined by the Governments. Technical cooperation in health is delivered to all three Territories, through:

(a) One subregional office based in Barbados, the Caribbean Programme Coordination;

(b) The Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute in Jamaica — nutrition and food safety;

(c) The Caribbean Epidemiology Centre based in Trinidad and Tobago — infectious disease epidemiology (including sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS), injury prevention, laboratory services and quality improvement and the expanded programme in immunization.

62. In January 2000, the programme of technical cooperation offered by the Caribbean Programme Coordination for the biennium 2000-2001 was revised in consultation with the senior health managers. The programme addresses nationally identified priority areas through three projects, namely environmental health, health promotion and disease prevention, and health services development. Below are listed the expected results of these programmes in which the Territories have participated/benefited:

(a) *Environmental health*:

(i) Standards and guidelines formulated to increase capacity for prevention and control of food-borne diseases:

- Review of water quality and food safety legislation (Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands);
- Provision of a legislative policy brief for guidance in drafting new legislation;
- Training in the use of the hazard analysis and critical control point methodology;
- Development of guidelines for self-inspection of food establishments;
- Guidelines for itinerant vendors;
- Training in the surveillance of food-borne illness;

(ii) Methods, models and technologies adopted to improve the capacity for environmental risk assessment and pollution control in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat:

- Training of nationals in the identification of toxic chemicals and disposal of hazardous waste;
- Initial training at the basic level in the management of hazardous chemicals and the adaptation of supporting regulations (hazardous chemical management) to suit these small countries;
- Development of appropriate policies for and training in solid waste minimization and liquid waste management;
- Training of package treatment operators;
- Development of regulations for package treatment plants operation;

(iii) Strengthened capacity in integrated vector control involving mainly training programmes for vector control workers and primary school personnel.

(b) *Health promotion and disease prevention*:

(i) Methods, models and technologies introduced to strengthen capacity to plan and implement comprehensive programmes for selected groups (elderly and perinatal care):

- Training in community care of the elderly by means of fellowships to the University of the West Indies for Anguilla (two persons) and Montserrat (one person);
- In Montserrat, the United Kingdom Department for International Development project is providing assistance to develop a programme for the care of the elderly with a well-defined policy and plan of action;
- Situation analysis of the health of the elderly conducted in the British Virgin Islands (to be undertaken in Anguilla);
- Situation analysis of the health status of men to be conducted in Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands;
- Updating of staff involved in perinatal care on current technologies and approaches to care in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat;

(ii) Plans, projects and policies formulated to strengthen programmes for selected diseases (sexually transmitted infections/HIV/AIDS; chronic diseases yet to be selected):

- A communications workshop on HIV/AIDS was conducted by the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre;
- A strategic plan for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS is now completed for Anguilla;
- A plan for adolescent health in the British Virgin Islands is being developed;
- Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands are being given support to conduct a seat belt/cellular phone use survey for the injury prevention campaign;
- A plan of action is being developed in respect of domestic violence in the British Virgin Islands.

(c) *Development of health services*:

(i) Direct support to improve health planning capacity (health financing):

- National health insurance implementation plan for Anguilla;
- Decentralization of hospitals management and the introduction of a health authority for Anguilla;

(ii) Direct support for manpower training. Fellowships were awarded as follows:

- Psychiatric nursing (Montserrat);
- Care for the elderly (Montserrat and Anguilla);
- Operating theatre techniques (Montserrat);
- Nurse anaesthetics (Anguilla);
- Nursing administration (Montserrat);
- Health informatics (British Virgin Islands);
- Public health nursing (Anguilla);
- Quality improvement course (Anguilla);
- Nationals were supported to attend meetings/updating sessions, e.g., national epidemiologist meeting at the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre;
- National nutrition coordinators' meeting (Belize);
- International food safety standard operating procedures course (Miami);

(iii) Standards and guidelines and promotional campaigns supported to establish quality improvement programmes:

- Nationals of the British Virgin Islands and Anguilla attended the Boston University course on improving quality health care;
- Quality improvement programme to be developed to include a laboratory programme led by the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre;

(iv) Health information systems developed:

- A workshop on the development of a hospital information strategic plan was held for all three countries in Montserrat;
- Study tour of Canadian hospitals and the Canadian Institute for Health Information;

(v) Capacity for disaster management strengthened:

- Programme for disaster preparedness and mitigation played an important role during the days of the volcanic crisis in Montserrat. Specifically assisting with the emergency referrals of patients and organizing short-term replacement of health personnel;
- All three countries are subject to the vagaries of the annual hurricane season and have been assisted with the revision of their health disaster plans;
- Top simulation exercises conducted.

63. In addition to the above, the Government of the United Kingdom, in responding to severe international criticism of the management of the crisis following the volcanic eruption in Montserrat, developed a health project aimed at rebuilding the health services for the people of Montserrat to the prevolcanic level. The project had a major physical infrastructure development component. PAHO agreed to manage the provision of technical assistance support to improve the effectiveness and quality of health services for the people of Montserrat. By mid-2002 the following should have been delivered:

- An information system plan developed and selected performance indicators defined;
- Information system/information technology project proposals for resource mobilization designed;
- Training workshop on the application of health promotion approaches;
- Strategy and plan of action for mental health services defined, clinical protocols developed and relevant staff trained to implement them;
- Protocols and indicators of good practice in the delivery of services for older persons developed and relevant staff trained to implement them;
- Options reviewed, and project proposals for sustainable resources for health services developed;
- Training courses within the Caribbean accessed to support Ministry of Health's succession planning in priority areas.

64. A major social challenge for the Turks and Caicos Islands has been its ability to deal with the illegal migrant population emanating from Haiti. Because it is not officially a part of the society, this population lives under poor social conditions, resulting in an increase in communicable diseases such as tuberculosis. Although this population is illegal, it is still absorbed in the workforce, primarily in the private sector. This situation has placed the health system under some

strain, with the Government experiencing difficulties in recruiting and maintaining its own national professionals for government agencies, including the Ministry of Health.

65. As a result of poor health infrastructure and reduced institutional capacity, the Turks and Caicos Islands has been experiencing incremental increases in the amount of money spent for overseas treatment. Over the past year reports have shown that the Ministry of Health has expended approximately some US$ 7 million for overseas treatment, which has prompted the Government to look at the possibility of establishing a national health insurance scheme.

66. The Ministry of Health of the Turks and Caicos Island has requested the support of PAHO/WHO in the areas of: health services development, environmental health, expanded programme on immunization, communicable and non-communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, and food and nutrition.

67. In the area of health services development, the Ministry, with the support of the United Kingdom Department of International Development, conducted an analysis and made a proposal to support health sector reform. PAHO/WHO has been specifically requested to provide support in the areas of health information systems, oral health, mental health and a programme for the elderly.

Technical cooperation activities of PAHO in the northern Caribbean Territories

Bermuda

68. Health manpower development for the Government of Bermuda is conducted as a priority. Requests for PAHO technical cooperation is therefore mainly in this area. This is provided through support for fellowships and training in the form of local workshops and participation in overseas meetings and conferences.

69. Fellowships have been provided for the following courses:

Public health nursing — West Indies School of Public Health, Jamaica;

Masters in public health — University of the West Indies, Jamaica;

Fertility management — University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica.

70. Meetings and workshops have been support for the following areas:

Joint laboratory director's meeting — Caribbean Epidemiology Centre, Trinidad and Tobago;

PAHO advisory group meeting — Washington, D.C.;

Workshop on ethics — United States;

Laboratory safety workshop — Caribbean Epidemiology Centre, Trinidad and Tobago.

71. These technical cooperation activities have assisted in strengthening the management and support services for enhanced delivery of health care services. Technical advisory services were provided through a visit to Bermuda of a PAHO sanitary engineer from the Jamaica office. He conducted consultation services in the areas of water and sanitation. More specifically, he has provided critical technical support in investigating an outbreak of food poisoning at hotels in Bermuda. Following this intervention, continuing support was provided to bring about improvements in legislation, food protection strategies, water quality criteria and water storage facilities at homes and institutions. In an effort to institutionalize this support, nationals received training at a recent workshop on policy development and at regional workshops on water quality, including environmental projects under the second phase of the Caribbean cooperation in health initiative.

Cayman Islands

72. The technical cooperation strategies effected in the Cayman Islands have been aimed at strengthening the capabilities of the Department of Health in the delivery of health care services by upgrading the skills of health personnel and promoting health protection.

73. Support for fellowships has been provided as well as for training in the form of local workshops and meetings in addition to participation in local and overseas meetings.

74. Fellowships have been provided in the following areas:

Public health nursing — United States;

Joint laboratory directors meeting — Caribbean Epidemiology Centre, Trinidad and Tobago;

Expanded programme on immunization managers meeting — Caribbean Epidemiology Centre, Trinidad and Tobago;

Nutrition coordinator's meeting — Belize;

Health in the workplace — United States.

75. Technical support in environmental health consisted of a strategic analysis as to the adequacy of the existing sewage facilities at the new hospital in the Cayman Islands. Also, technical documentation and assistance were provided to the Cayman Islands in resolving sewage disposal problems at health clinics. Technical assistance in solid waste management and laboratory techniques in environmental analysis were also provided.

Activities in the Western Pacific region

American Samoa

76. The regular budget of WHO has been focused on one programme, human resources for health. This programme has been designed to strengthen the national capacity of skilled health workers. It replaces the previous fragmented programmes, national health systems and policies and environmental health in urban development. The new programme focuses initially on developing human resources to improve the provision of primary health care, particularly in the rural areas, and contains elements of local and overseas training. The majority of health funding for American Samoa comes from United States federal social programmes.

Guam

77. In the case of Guam, collaborative activities with WHO have focused on the training of national personnel in priority programmes.

78. Past collaborative activities include fellowships in health information administration, facility planning and management, master in nurse practitioner for maternal and child health, echocardiogram training, oncology workshops, bachelor of science in nursing, master of environmental science and preparatory studies for registration as a technician in medical records.

New Caledonia

79. For New Caledonia the main areas of collaboration with WHO were evaluation of the priority programmes, water supply and sanitation, and dengue prevention and control.

80. The Direction Territoriale des Affaires Sanitaires et Sociales has also been strengthening surveillance and epidemiological activities in New Caledonia and two particular areas have been developed: improvement of disease reporting by practitioners to the health inspection bureau through a computer network, supported by WHO; and improvement of distribution and validation of data. The project was delayed because of data transmission problems. However, the programme is now working. Transmission reliability and performance need to be improved.

81. Changes in lifestyles and the increase in non-communicable diseases have resulted in a number of health education programmes to promote healthy lifestyles. The main focus is on the promotion of non-smoking, increasing physical activity and controlling the use of alcohol among younger people.

82. The first WHO fellow from the bachelor of medicine bachelor of surgery programme at the Fiji School of Medicine graduated in the biennium 1998-1999 and the need for an experienced surgeon and maternal child health practitioner on the island has been met by a United Nations Volunteer. Dental health personnel have been trained to undertake an oral health survey and plans to develop a preventive oral health programme are under way. Health inspector training should strengthen environmental health services.

83. Hospital services have been strengthened through the installation of a diagnostic service on Nukunono, which includes a health laboratory and an x-ray unit.

J. International Monetary Fund

84. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is involved in East Timor as part of a concerted international effort to reconstruct its economy and establish the foundations for a viable independent country. In this regard, the Fund works closely with UNTAET and other specialized agencies, especially the World Bank, as well as with bilateral donors.

85. The conflict caused considerable loss of life and damage to the productive capacity of the economy. The reconstruction efforts have required the restoration of law and order, the re-establishment of government

structures and systems, the rebuilding of institutions needed to ensure the functioning of a market economy, the normalization of relations with Indonesia, and the full participation of the East Timorese. Reconstruction has been complicated by the weak economic system that emerged from the Indonesian administration, which lacked an indigenous managerial capacity and promoted a culture of dependence on the Government as the key provider of employment, subsidies and transfers.

86. The primary role of IMF has been to help the country restore macroeconomic stability to lay the foundation for long-term sustainable growth. In this work, IMF has played a major role in helping to build key economic institutions and has focused on providing technical assistance to build administrative capacity to enable the authorities to formulate sound economic policies and implement them effectively. IMF has also focused on developing a macroeconomic framework to guide the authorities on their economic policy decisions and to help ensure that resources made available to East Timor are effectively used and properly accounted for.

Strategy

87. In November 1999, the IMF staff proposed a strategy that featured reviving the payment system, developing a basic fiscal framework, and providing a technical assistance programme. The critical steps to be taken to revive the payment system were choosing the legal tender and establishing a monetary authority — the Central Payments Office. The Office was to be responsible for providing basic depository and payment services, mainly to the Government, and for facilitating the development of foreign exchange and money markets by adopting internationally acceptable bank licensing and supervisory procedures. The fiscal strategy called for adopting a sustainable budget underpinned by a fair, transparent, efficient and easy-to-administer tax system and an expenditure plan that would guarantee the provision of basic public services. It also called for establishing the Central Fiscal Authority, which would formulate tax policy and administer the collection of revenues, and design and coordinate the execution of the expenditure programme.

88. Implementing the proposed strategy required a comprehensive technical assistance programme. East Timor needed immediate assistance from IMF to design and implement the macroeconomic framework, establish and make operational the Central Payments Office and the Central Fiscal Authority, and to develop criteria for the choice of the legal tender. Substantial medium-term assistance was also needed to enable East Timor to carry out macroeconomic analysis, policy design and management.

Developments to date

89. Key elements of the strategy were adopted by UNTAET in close consultation with the East Timorese leadership. Economic activity recovered strongly in 2000, led by commerce, services and construction — activities closely linked to the international presence and reconstruction efforts. Consumer price inflation has slowed down and regional price differences for key staples have narrowed. Unemployment remains high and poverty is widespread. Besides agriculture and the emerging private sector, employment is being generated by the East Timor Transitional Administration and by several programmes providing temporary employment, including those financed through the Trust Fund for East Timor, which is administered by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

90. Progress in the financial sector has been mixed. East Timor adopted the United States dollar as its sole legal tender to help eliminate the distortions arising from the use of multiple currencies. The use of the United States dollar is increasing, but the Indonesian rupiah continues to be widely used as a means of payment, while the Australian dollar circulates in Dili. Financial intermediation is yet to be restored. Bank deposits have been increasing, but no commercial bank credit has been extended, mainly owing to the lack of adequate collateral. The exchange rate of the United States dollar vis-à-vis the Indonesian rupiah is closely tracking, with a relatively stable margin, the corresponding rate in the Jakarta market.

91. Public finances were guided by a preliminary budget in the first half of 2000, which was prepared by UNTAET with the technical support of IMF. On 1 July 2000, this budget was replaced by the first consolidated budget of the East Timor Transitional Administration (which attempts to summarize all fiscal and quasi-fiscal activities carried out directly in East Timor by the Administration budget, and the financial support of the Trust Fund for East Timor, part of the assessed contribution budget of UNTAET, and bilateral donors),

covering fiscal year 2000/01, which was prepared by the Central Fiscal Authority and marginally revised in November to accommodate additional expenditures. Budget execution has proceeded more slowly than anticipated. Tax collections have performed well, but the enforcement of user fees (especially on power) needs improvement. Non-wage expenditures have been lower than anticipated reflecting managerial and operational problems in spending agencies, delays in supply and procurement, and long drawn-out planning stages of investment programmes. East Timor's fiscal deficits are expected to be fully financed by grants during the next three fiscal years.

92. Regarding capacity-building developments, the Central Fiscal Authority and the Central Payments Office are now operational. IMF has coordinated technical and financial assistance to provide experts to those institutions and has provided technical support to ensure that the regulatory framework associated with the development of the Authority and Office could progress on schedule. As a result, regulations for budget execution and the taxation framework were adopted, the treasury is functional and progress has been made in setting up a tax administration. The Office has issued several regulations, based on the Core Principles for Effective Banking Supervision issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, enabling foreign exchange bureaux and banks to operate, and licensing rules for non-bank financial institutions are being drawn up. IMF has also provided assistance in the areas of petroleum fiscal issues and designed an overall framework for the development of a central statistical office. Moreover, to enhance the skills of the East Timorese in economic issues, the IMF-Singapore Regional Training Institute delivered a course on economic and financial policy, especially designed for East Timorese civil servants. IMF also organized a seminar for members of the National Council to make them familiar with the Fund, its operations, and the rights and obligations of future membership.

Challenges ahead

93. Despite the progress achieved, the task ahead remains monumental. If East Timor is going to address effectively unemployment and poverty, it must grow at very high and sustained rates. To achieve this, IMF will continue to stress the need for consistent and credible macroeconomic policies, for enhancing capacity-building, and for creating an environment conducive to long-term private investment.

94. Fiscal policy will be the key element of a sound macroeconomic stability. In the face of an eventual decline of foreign grants, fiscal stability will require that East Timor adopt measures to increase revenues and maintain strict control over expenditures. Moreover, if an independent East Timor decides to introduce its own currency, such a decision should be taken once a sound and credible financial policy and a well-developed institutional and legal framework are fully in place to support the value of the new currency.

95. Regarding capacity-building, IMF will continue to provide technical assistance to experts in the Central Fiscal Authority and the Central Payments Office, as well as legal technical assistance to enhance the regulatory environment related to fiscal and financial matters. In addition, IMF will maintain a representative in Dili to continue guiding economic decision-making and enhance capacity-building.

96. IMF, in close coordination with the World Bank, will strive to continue setting up the regulatory and institutional frameworks necessary to help create adequate incentives for the private sector and to promote foreign investment. In particular, there is an urgent need to develop an enabling environment for private sector investment, including a commercial legal framework, a land and property rights law, mechanisms for the resolution of disputes, a labour code, proceedings for bankruptcy of business and a legal framework for foreign investment.

K. Universal Postal Union

97. Within the framework of technical cooperation, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) has taken some measures to help East Timor and UNTAET.

98. UPU also works with UNDP and the World Bank on some projects but it does not have any firm new projects for the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

L. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

99. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has been carrying out activities in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Based on the findings

of a UNDP-funded study UNIDO conducted on the causes of high migration rates in the Turks and Caicos Islands and at the Government's request, the Organization has recently started to provide technical support for implementation of a nationally executed project for the improvement of local support institutions in the less developed Caicos Islands and Grand Turk.

100. The objective of the project is to improve the institutional environment in order to foster the formation of business start-ups and growth of existing firms. By creating opportunities for new income- and employment-generating activities, it is expected to reduce, if not reverse, the negative trend of migration flows from these islands.

101. The project covers two major areas: improvement of the policy and regulatory environment as well as training of some private sector development institutions, the Turks and Caicos Islands Investment Agency (TCInvest) and cooperating institutions so as to enable them to provide services adequate to the needs of local entrepreneurs. Specifically, the project is expected (a) to strengthen TCInvest through the creation of a small enterprise development centre that will, in future, provide training and advisory/extension services to new as well as existing small-scale local entrepreneurs, (b) to provide direct training and advisory services to a target-group of micro- and small-scale enterprises and (c) to advise TCInvest and other relevant governmental institutions on policies and development schemes for the effective promotion of small-scale enterprises.

M. Organization of African Unity

102. At the thirtieth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held at Tunis from 13 to 15 June 1994, the Organization of African Unity adopted resolution AHG/Res.228 (XXX), in which it recognized that the mandate given to the Liberation Committee in 1963 had been satisfactorily accomplished and decided to dissolve the Committee.

Notes

[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution I, annex II.